

21 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Training Liaison Officers (for distribution)

SUBJECT: Basic Country Survey—Burma

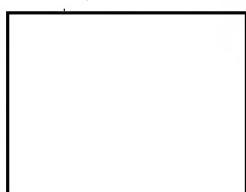
REFERENCES: (a) Memo to TLO's from DTR dtd 16 Sept 55, subject:  
Announcement of Schedule for Area Training  
Courses  
(b) Memo to TLO's from DTR dtd 25 Oct 55, subject:  
Area Training Courses—Guest Speakers

1. As announced in reference (a), a Basic Country Survey Course on Burma will be offered, starting Monday, 5 December 1955 and ending 24 February 1956, as part of the LETS/TR Area Training Program. Classes will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 1445 to 1645, in Room 2132 "I" Building. No classes will be held between 22 December and 3 January, inclusive. Guidance for outside reading will be offered, a comprehensive bibliography provided and a selected list of books made available in the LETS Reference Center.

2. The course will cover the physical features of the country, the racial origins of the people, the social structure of the community, the sacred area, the several minorities and, briefly, the political and economic history of Burma. A close examination will be made of the emergence of Burma as a modern state, the present day political, economic and social structure, current stresses within and without and, finally, the relationship and significance of Burma to the United States, both in terms of United States security considerations and the foreign policies of both countries. The purpose of the course is to give to those taking it an appreciation and understanding of the country and its people as a necessary introduction either to work in Burma or work on that country in the discharge of Agency responsibilities.

3. The following guest speakers have been tentatively scheduled for:

Wednesday, 7 December



OCI

Some Aspects of  
the Current  
Situation

Friday, 9 December

ORR,

Physical Features  
of Burma

Friday, 6 January

Miss Rhea Blue, Depart-  
ment of State, OIR

Buddhism and its  
Origins in Burma

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Monday, 23 January

[REDACTED]

FE

The British Occupa-  
tion of Burma

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Monday, 6 February

Philip Thayer, Dean  
of SAIS

The Political Struc-  
ture of Burma Today

Friday, 10 February

Robert Blum, President,  
The Asia Foundation

The Current Picture  
in Burma

Wednesday, 15 February

Hon. William Sebald,  
Deputy Assistant Sec-  
retary of State for FE

The United States  
Position in Southeast  
Asia

4. LETS would like to accommodate auditors at any of the individual sessions featuring guest speakers, and wishes to amend the previous announcement accordingly. In order to be assured of admission, however, those interested in attending single meetings should notify the School (Extension [REDACTED] at least 24 hours in advance.

5. Persons desiring to participate in the complete course should make arrangements for an interview with the principal instructor, Mr. [REDACTED] Room 2129 "I" Building, Extension [REDACTED] and should contact their Training Liaison Officer to arrange for formal application.

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[REDACTED]  
MATTHEW HAIRD  
Director of Training